

# DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM

## Steps to Obtain Custody of a Vessel\*

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP) helps public agencies with this growing problem.

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### Temporary Possession

A port district, city, county or other authorized public entity may take temporary possession of the vessel if it is in imminent danger of sinking, breaking up, or blocking navigation channels. The vessel may be removed from the water and placed in a secure upland location.

Within seven days of this action, the public entity needs to explain, in writing, why it took temporary possession and submit it to the owner as soon as possible (by postal address or other means).

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### The 50-Day Custody Process

The custody process: 30 days to gain custody, and a 20 day waiting period allowing the owner to file a lawsuit to redeem the vessel or dispute costs owed. Briefly, the public entity needs to follow the steps on the 'checklist' on the reverse side of this card.

Templates with instructions are available from the DVRP coordinator.

It is required that a derelict vessel reporting form is completed and sent in regarding the vessel to be taken into custody. The vessel will be assigned a vessel ID# and priority rating (necessary when requesting reimbursement). A vessel in imminent danger of sinking will receive a higher rating. DNR reviews requests and disburses reimbursements quarterly, based on priority and DVRP funds available.

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### Time Is In-Kind Match

Track personnel time and other costs as project charges and in-kind services, such as: staff costs, vessel storage costs, equipment use charges and volunteer time, which count towards the 10 percent match for funding of removal and disposal.

In-kind exceeding this also would be reimbursed.

A reimbursement request form is required after the vessel is disposed of and costs are finalized.

(Form is on web page: [www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/aqr/derelict\\_vessel](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/aqr/derelict_vessel))

# Custody Procedures Checklist

Derelict vessels may be removed by Washington’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Derelict Vessel Removal Program, or other specific public agencies:

- ▶ Port Districts
- ▶ City, town or county with jurisdiction over aquatic lands
- ▶ Metropolitan Park Districts
- ▶ State Parks and Recreation Commission
- ▶ State Department of Fish and Wildlife

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## Steps Necessary to Receive Reimbursement Through DVRP

- ☐ Complete ‘Derelict Vessel Report Form’ and submit it to Washington DNR (DVRP coordinator will contact you with a case ID and priority ranking)
- ☐ Post a notice on the vessel for 30 days
- ☐ Mail notice to the owner of intent to obtain custody at least 20 days prior to taking custody
- ☐ Send DVRP a notice to post on the program website
- ☐ Publish a legal notice in the local newspaper, more than 10 days but less than 20 days prior to taking custody
- ☐ Remove, or have contractor remove/dispose of vessel
- ☐ Complete request for reimbursement, attach all receipts/invoices; send to state DVRP coordinator

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## If You Have Questions

Contact DVRP coordinator:  
360-902-1574, or e-mail [DVRP@wadnr.gov](mailto:DVRP@wadnr.gov)

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## 24-Hour Emergency Hotlines

Sinking vessels, oil spills or spills of other hazardous materials 24-hour emergency response phone numbers:

**Department of  
Emergency Management  
(State)** (800) 258-5990

**Marine Emergencies  
Coast Guard Marine  
Safety Office**  
(206) 217-6232 *Seattle*  
(503) 240-9320 *Portland*

**Department of Ecology  
(State)** (360) 407-6300  
24-hour Spill Response  
Hotline

**Derelict Vessel  
Removal Program  
(State)** (360) 902-1574 or  
Email: [dvrp@wadnr.gov](mailto:dvrp@wadnr.gov)